

March 10, 2009

A Community Meeting with City Council for the Northside/Chatham Hts. areas was held on March 10, 2009, at Clearview Wesleyan Church, 925 Barrows Mill Road, Martinsville, Virginia, at 7:30 P. M., with Mayor Kathy Lawson presiding and Council members present including: Gene Teague, Kimble Reynolds, Jr., Mark Stroud, Sr., and Danny Turner. Staff present included: Clarence Monday, City Manager; Leon Towarnicki, Assistant City Manager; Brenda Prillaman, Scott Coleman, Kenneth Draper, Mike Rogers, and Wayne Knox. Mayor Lawson welcomed those in attendance and thanked the church for hosting the meeting. Council Member Teague gave the invocation.

City Manager Clarence Monday outlined the need for a resolution according to state regulations to authorize Providence EMS Transport, LLC to be an emergency medical transporter, even though Providence has no interest in providing 911 backup or actual emergency services. Providence primarily serves Patrick County and their interest lies in non-emergency and inter-facility medical transport. Mr. Carter, a representative of Providence, answered Council's questions regarding the company's history and background. Mr. Carter told Council he could stay in his present building for another month or so. City Attorney Eric Monday pointed out the resolution will allow the company to operate their business and will pose no liability to the city. Council Member Stroud stated he was not familiar with the company and would like more information before making a decision. Vice Mayor Reynolds asked Providence to provide references. Council decided to put this item on the March 24 agenda for further consideration.

Mayor Lawson welcomed citizens to the Neighborhood meeting and called on Brenda Prillaman to review the quarterly citizen concerns report for the Northside/Chatham Hts. area of the city. Citizen comments included: Melvin Bryant of Roselawn Hts—several residences on Roselawn Hts. have drug issues and dogs bark all night. Frances Ashburn agreed with Mr. Bryant's comments about the drug issues on Roselawn and said this has been going on since 2005 and she does not feel safe. Eric Monday pointed out there may be options to pursue drug blighted properties according to number of times police calls are run

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to that same address. Marie Garrett, Glade Street, reported she is concerned about wasted tax dollars on a recent mailing she received. She showed Council a mailing she received from the Henry-Martinsville Social Services department inviting the public to tour the building and see the maintenance issues at a March 24 open house. Doug Sharpe, 206 Clearview, spoke about prepaying taxes monthly and Eric Monday will contact Mr. Sharpe regarding this issue. Mr. Sharpe also pointed out the need to check the timing on the traffic signal at Clearview and Liberty Street due to the long wait time. Leon Towarnicki will look into this issue. Mr. Sharpe stated he wanted to go on record that Social Services needs a new building. Woody McCain, Augusta Street, reported inoperative vehicles and dogs running loose on his street. He also voiced his concern about the newspaper advertising papers that litter their street and are never picked up or used. The Martinsville Bulletin will be contacted about this issue. Brenda Gilbert had questions on the proposed employee health insurance noting that she was speaking on behalf of a lot of other employees wondering if it would be affordable. Mayor Lawson advised a Council meeting is set for March 12 to address this issue and she was welcome to attend. Council member Stroud noted that nothing has been voted on yet. Council member Teague pointed out the current employee insurance is not affordable for families and for the vast majority of employees, it will be a better plan. Council member Turner pointed out that Council can't afford to fund a huge amount of the employee insurance increase due to limited resources. Mr. McCain pointed out that in his experience with Anthem insurance, that they low ball their price to get started and then come back with a huge increase. Mrs. McCain stressed that retirees, whether school teachers or city workers, should not be considered a handicap as far as the insurance plan considering all the hours of hard work they have put in for the betterment of the city. Tony Millner, President of NAACP, reported he appreciated meeting with the City Manager and City Attorney today to get clarification on the recent electric ordinance. Mr. Millner questioned Council on whose responsibility is maintenance of the Social Services building. City Manager Clarence Monday said that a contract drawn up between Social Services, Henry County, and

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Martinsville specifies that initial maintenance is for the DSS to take the lead on maintenance with any expenses over \$1,000 required to be submitted to the county and city for approval. The costs are split, with the county responsible for 66% and the city responsible for 34%. Council member Teague pointed out that no action can be taken until all three parties agree on how to solve the building problem. An unidentified citizen pointed out there are problems in the Chatham Hts. area from littering and bottles on the sidewalks. There was discussion as to limits of what the city can do unless citizens are willing to testify against the person they see littering. David Gilbert spoke about the tremendous amount of uncovered truck traffic on Chatham Hts. and asked that the city get the Transportation Safety Commission to investigate limiting the amount of truck traffic. It was pointed out we need to make sure proper signage is in place, make sure city trucks are covered properly, communicate with First Piedmont to be sure all their trucks are covered, and maybe post a notice at the landfill to make sure trucks are covered. Mike Rogers responded to citizens' concerns involving drug dealing and littering assuring citizens that the police department is working on these issues and advising citizens they should call the police department with any concern they have. Council member Teague asked that the city pursue handling these concerns as public nuisances. Frances Fleming complimented city departments for their response to citizen concerns. Bennie Gray had concerns about his increased tax assessment, concerns about certain property owners causing the area to look bad specifically one with an unsightly fence, truck traffic on Barrows Mill Road, and the need for an extended sidewalk on Barrows Mill Road. James Garrett, Glade Street, voiced concerns with speeding on the street and city will look into using grids on the street to slow traffic down.

In accordance with Section 2.1-344 (A) of the Code of Virginia (1950, and as amended) and upon a motion by Gene Teague, seconded by Kimble Reynolds, with the following 4-0 recorded vote: Mrs. Lawson, aye; Mr. Reynolds, aye; Mr. Teague, aye; and Mr. Turner, aye, Council convened in Closed Session, for the purpose of discussing the following matters: (A) Appointments to boards and commissions as authorized by Subsection 1 and (B) Consultation with legal

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counsel and briefings by staff members, attorneys or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, or other specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel, as authorized by Subsection 7. Council Member Stroud was absent from the Closed Session.

At the conclusion of Closed Session, each returning member of Council certified that (1) only public business matters exempt from open meeting requirements were discussed in said Closed Session; and (2) only those business matters identified in the motion convening the Closed Session were heard, discussed, or considered during said Session. On a motion by Gene Teague, seconded by Danny Turner, with the following 4-0 recorded vote: Mrs. Lawson, aye; Mr. Reynolds, aye; Mr. Teague, aye; and Mr. Turner, aye, Council returned to Open Session.

On a motion by Kimble Reynolds, seconded by Gene Teague, with a 4-0 vote, Council appointed Robert Cummings Vogler, 301 Oakdale Street, to an expired term ending 12/31/09 on the Comprehensive Services Act Community Policy and Management Team.

On a motion by Danny Turner, seconded by Gene Teague, Council appointed Vince Stone, 1229 Sam Lions Trail, to the Cable Franchise Review Committee.

No action was taken on the other matter.

There being no further business, Mayor Lawson declared the community meeting adjourned at 10:22 PM.

Clarence Monday
Clerk of Council

Kathy C. Lawson
Mayor